

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
(Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council)

Chairman: Mr. William E. Crosby, District No. 3

Members: Mr. Milton Farley, District No. 1
Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, District No. 2
Mr. Charles E. Davis, District No. 4
Mr. Dennis L. Fish, District No. 5
Mrs. Judy C. Mims, District No. 6
Mr. Caldwell Pinckney, Jr., District No. 7
Mr. Steve C. Davis, District No. 8
Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

The COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, Standing Committee of Berkeley Council, met on Monday, April 14, 2003, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 North Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, at 8:23 p.m.

Present: Mr. William E. Crosby, Councilmember District No. 3, Chairman; Mr. Milton Farley, Councilmember District No. 1; Mrs. Judith K. Spooner, Councilmember District No. 2; Mr. Charles E. Davis, Councilmember District No. 4; Mr. Dennis L. Fish, Councilmember District No. 5; Mrs. Judy C. Mims, Councilmember District No. 6; Mr. Steve C. Davis, Councilmember District No. 8; Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex-officio; Mr. D. Mark Stokes, County Attorney; and Ms. Barbara B. Austin, Clerk of County Council.

The requirements of the Freedom of Information Act have been complied with by posting the time, date, place and copy of Agenda of this Committee meeting of Berkeley County Council at the entrance to the Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, and a copy of such notice was mailed to all Councilmembers, the media, and all interested citizens.

Chairman Crosby called the meeting to order and asked the Committee's pleasure on the approval of Minutes for March 10, 2003.

It was moved by Councilmember Spooner and seconded by Councilmember Pinckney to approve the Minutes as presented. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman Crosby stated the next item on the agenda was Consideration of a Resolution proclaiming May 2003 as Mental Health Awareness Month.

Ms. Debbie Calcote, Director, Berkeley County Mental Health Center, stated that in addition to delivering their usual services they put a lot of effort into educating the community and the public about mental health and mental illnesses in adults and children. For the 31 days in May mental health really matters. However, mental health matters every day to one in five South Carolinians who would have a mental illness some time in their life. It matters every day

to the one in ten American Children who have an illness severe enough that it restricts their development. She stated that two thirds of the people who have a mental illness do not receive treatment. Nearly two thirds don't receive help because of the stigma associated with mental illness. Stigma is what keeps many people from seeking the help they need. They are discovering that the negativity and misunderstanding that often surround mental illness can create fear and cause shame, which in turn causes unnecessary pain and confusion. The fact is, no one really understands how the brain works and why at times it works differently in different people. Society tends to not give the same acceptance to brain disorders as given to other organ disorders.

Ms. Calcote thanked Council for considering proposing May as Mental Health Awareness month in Berkeley County and doing their part in helping to erase the stigma associated with mental illness.

Ms. Calcote read the Resolution Proclaiming May 2003 as Mental Health Awareness Month as follows:

“WHEREAS, ALMOST 800,000 SOUTH CAROLINIANS HAVE A MENTAL ILLNESS; AND

“WHEREAS, MENTAL ILLNESS AFFECTS ONE OF EVERY FIVE AMERICAN FAMILIES; AND

“WHEREAS, SEVEN TO NINE PERCENT OF CHILDREN BETWEEN THE AGES OF 9 AND 17 HAVE SERIOUS EMOTIONAL DISTURBANCES BUT NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF THESE CHILDREN ARE NOT RECEIVING TREATMENT; AND

“WHEREAS, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATIONS HAS FOUND THAT WHEN COMPARED WITH ALL OTHER DISEASES, MENTAL ILLNESS RANKS FIRST IN TERMS OF CAUSING DISABILITY IN THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AND WESTERN EUROPE; AND

“WHEREAS, THE BERKELEY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER WORKS TO HELP PEOPLE IN OUR AREA THROUGH TIMES OF DIFFICULT EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL DISTRESS, SERVING 3,846 CITIZENS LAST YEAR; AND

“WHEREAS, PEOPLE STRUGGLING MENTAL ILLNESSES AND THEIR FAMILIES NEED SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY AND PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING; AND

“WHEREAS, STIGMA HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A LEADING FACTOR KEEPING PEOPLE FROM SEEKING THE TREATMENT THEY NEED:

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BERKELEY COUNTY COUNCIL IN A MEETING DULY ASSEMBLED,

“BERKELEY COUNTY COUNCIL DOES HEREBY SHOW ITS SUPPORT OF THE EFFORTS TO ERASE THE STIGMA SURROUNDING MENTAL ILLNESSES BY PROCLAIMING MAY 2003 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH.”

It was moved by Councilmember Pinckney and seconded by Councilmember Spooner to send the Resolution proclaiming May 2003 as Mental Health Awareness Month to Council for adoption. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

Chairman Crosby stated the next item was Consideration of a Resolution supporting Berkeley Citizens’ application for funds under the Federal Transit Administration and the State Mass Transit Fund program.

Ms. Alice Shook of Berkeley Citizens stated this Resolution’s in reference to a grant application they are submitting to the SC Department of Transportation for funds in the amount of \$40,000 over a two-year period to purchase transportation services for people with disabilities.

It was moved by Councilmember Pinckney and seconded by Councilmember S. Davis to send the Resolution supporting Berkeley Citizens’ application for funds to Council for adoption. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

It was moved by Councilmember Mims and seconded by Councilmember S. Davis to adjourn. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the Committee.

The Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

December 8, 2003
Date Approved

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Mr. James H. Rozier, Jr., Supervisor, ex officio

A meeting of the COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, Standing Committee of Berkeley County Council, will be held on Monday April 14, 2003, in the Assembly Room, Berkeley County Office Building, 223 N. Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina, following the meeting of the Committee on Justice and Public Safety and Public Hearings at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss matters relating to the receipt of legal advice where the legal advice relates to the discussion of employment, appointment, compensation, promotion, demotion, discipline, or release of an employee, a student, or a person regulated by a public body or the appointment of a person to a public body or other matters covered by the attorney-client privilege.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

March 10, 2003

A. Consideration of a Resolution proclaiming May 2003 as Mental Health Awareness Month.

B. Consideration of a Resolution supporting Berkeley Citizens' application for funds under the Federal Transit Administration and the State Mass Transit Fund program.

April 9, 2003
S/Barbara B. Austin
Clerk of County Council